

# SUMMARY

## OLDER CALIFORNIAN TRAFFIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

### 2006 SENIOR SAFE MOBILITY SUMMIT



Hyatt Regency Hotel  
Newport Beach, California  
October 26, 2006

**BACKGROUND:** Commissioner Mike Brown, chair of the Older Californian Traffic Safety (OCTS) Task Force, met with the eight workgroup chairpersons in February 2006 to discuss the task force's direction. All agreed the task force had accomplished a great deal but needed to make California practitioners more aware of its vital programs. It was decided the OCTS Task Force would conduct a conference to highlight the task force's successful programs.

Upon that suggestion, the 2006 Senior Safe Mobility Summit was initiated by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and hosted by the OCTS Task Force on October 26, 2006, in Newport Beach, California. Coordination was provided through an Interagency Agreement with California State University, Sacramento, College of Continuing Education. Funding for the event was made possible by an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Grant, PS0616, Older Drivers Driving Safer and Longer. Additionally, an OCTS Task Force partner, Automobile Club of Southern California, sponsored the noon-time luncheon.

**PURPOSE:** The summit's intent was to show California practitioners the future senior driver/pedestrian population trends and the need for a long-term commitment to keep older adults driving safely for as long as possible and heighten awareness of the need to help older adults and their caregivers understand the potential need for transition to alternative transportation modes when driving is no longer an option.

**FORMAT:** This one-day summit opened with welcome speeches by CHP Commissioner Mike Brown, Mr. Chris Murphy, Executive Director of OTS, and Assembly Member Lynn Daucher, District 72 (Orange County). Additionally, Dr. David Manning, Director of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Region IX office was the keynote speaker at lunch.



Commissioner Mike Brown, California Highway Patrol



Mr. Chris Murphy, Executive Director, California Office of Traffic Safety



The Honorable Lynn Daucher, California Assembly, Seventy-Second District





Dr. David Manning, Regional Administrator, Region IX,  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

To maximize the effectiveness of the summit, panels consisting of four pertinent older driver safety/mobility subjects were conducted. A panel summary appears below and on Page 5.

Panel One: Global Overview

Ms. Alice Bisno, Automobile Club of Southern California  
Ms. Joan Harris, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Dr. Cynthia Owsley, University of Alabama, Birmingham  
Ms. Sandy Markwood, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Ms. Nina Weiler-Harwell, AARP.

Panel Two: Mobility

Mr. David Koffman, Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates  
Dr. Nina Silverstein, University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Mr. Richard Smith, Partnership to Preserve Independent Living  
Mr. Peter Steinert, California Department of Transportation

Panel Three: State Officials

Mr. Michael Miles, Deputy Director, California Department of Transportation  
Mr. Sergio Perez, California Department of Motor Vehicles  
Dr. Mark Horton, California Department of Health Services  
Ms. Lora Connelly, California Department of Aging

Panel Four: Safety

Dr. James Grisolia, California Medical Association  
Ms. Elin Schold-Davis, American Occupational Therapists Association  
Mr. Dominick Albano, American Society on Aging

**ATTENDEES:** More than 100 individuals representing public agencies and private organizations were in attendance. Some of the represented organizations included the California State Automobile Association, Automobile Club of Southern California; AARP; Department of Motor Vehicles; Department of Health Services; Department of Transportation; Cities of Carson, Glendora, Huntington Beach, Laguna Woods, and Mission Viejo; County of Los Angeles; police departments of Irvine, Los Angeles, Newport Beach, Redlands, San Gabriel, and Westminster; Los Angeles County Sheriff; Riverside County Office on Aging; Stanford University Medical Center; Senator Sheila Kuehl's Office; and the Vietnamese Community of Orange County.

Departmental employees: Twenty-one employees representing the Office of the Commissioner, Office of Special Representative, Special Projects Section, Office of the Academy, Northern Division, Golden Gate Division, Central Division, Southern Division, Border Division, and Coastal Division either attended or assisted with specified functions. Additionally, a departmental honor guard from Border Division presented the colors during the opening ceremony.

**EVALUATION:** Attendees were provided with evaluation sheets upon registration. The form requested ratings of items such as the overall program, facility, handout materials, panels, and the lunch time speaker. Additional questions requiring written responses were also included on the form. A total of 41 evaluation forms were completed and returned by CSUS to the Department.

Although the Department did not receive responses from all attendees, those that did respond indicated positive regard for the summit. Overwhelmingly, Dr. David Manning, our lunchtime keynote speaker, received very high marks for his keynote address. A summary of responses appears in Attachment A, 2006 Senior Safe Mobility Summit Evaluation Summary.

**LAUDATORY COMMENTS:** As indicated above, the Senior Safe Mobility Summit received high praise. Credit for the event's success can be given to Ms. Julie Likes, the OCTS Task Force and departmental older driver/mobility program coordinator assigned to SPS. Ms. Likes, with full knowledge of SPS management, worked closely with CSUS, lent her vision in crafting the summit's content, and diligently monitored all administrative detail that made the event a success.

Additionally, Mr. Kent Milton, a Retired Annuitant assigned to Office of the Commissioner, was instrumental in identifying and securing guest speakers and the target audience participants. Through Mr. Milton's efforts, the Department's leadership role in older adult traffic safety/mobility has been solidified.

Other departmental employees recognized for their contributions are Mr. Rod Smith and Mr. Donnie Hayden of the Office of the Academy. Their technical expertise in the audio-visual field allowed the event to run with the highest efficiency. Mr. Joe McHugh, also of the Office of the Academy, succinctly captured the event through his photography. His work will add depth to the Department's older driver safety/mobility Web page upon its approval and publication.

**IMPACT UPON DEPARTMENT:** The summit increased senior practitioners' and the public's awareness of the Department's leadership role concerning older driver safety/mobility in California. It also:

- Firmly established California as a national leader concerning older driver/mobility issues.
- Significantly increased demand for departmental senior safety/mobility presentations, especially outside of northern California.
- Increased the expectation that the Department and the OCTS Task Force will conduct subsequent Senior Safe Mobility summits in future years.
- Showed the need for the Department to renew the commitment and support of OCTS Task Force member organizations, especially their involvement in subsequent Senior Safe Mobility summits and related Senior Safe Mobility Week activities (3<sup>rd</sup> week in October).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The OCTS Task Force's momentum, under the CHP's leadership, should be maintained for as long as possible. As such, the following actions or activities are proposed.

**California as a national leader:** It is recommended the Department maintain its partnerships with all OCTS Task Force member organizations and seek additional partnerships with interested practitioners and stakeholders such as county health providers and legal representatives for wider benefit of older Californians.

**Increase in departmental requests for senior safety/mobility presentations:** It is recommended the Department develop and disseminate a standardized statewide multi-media senior driver/mobility presentation package for delivery by Division and Area public affairs officers. The standardized program will allow for maximum efficiency of officers' time and assurance of availability.

**Subsequent Senior Safe Mobility summits:** The Department was recently successful in requesting and receiving Office of Traffic Safety funding to host Senior Safe Mobility Summit II in October 2007 in Sacramento. Additionally, the Riverside County Office on Aging has indicated interest in sponsoring a senior safety/mobility summit in October 2008 in southern California. It is recommended that the Department seek grant funding or additional sponsoring partners to hold subsequent senior driver safety/mobility summits beginning in 2009.

**Renewal of OCTS Task Force Members' Commitment:** To reinforce the value of OCTS Task Force members, SPS has structured its February 2007 OCTS Task Force meeting to include a 2007 summit planning segment. All OCTS Task Force members are being asked to provide their creative input and involvement to assure another successful senior safe mobility summit.

**SUMMARY:**

- 1) The OCTS Task Force, under CHP auspices, conducted the first Senior Safe Mobility Summit on October 26, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, California.
- 2) Local, regional, and national older driver safety/mobility subject matter experts provided presentations.
- 3) The summit was well-attended and received high praise from speakers and participants.
- 4) The Department conducted the event at approximately one-half of the projected cost. Total cost for the summit was \$45,026.68.
- 5) The summit elevated awareness of the older driver/mobility effort in California and placed greater demand upon the CHP to deliver older driver safety/mobility presentations and subsequent Senior Safe Mobility summits in future years.
- 6) Proposed activities and actions are in place to maintain California's leadership and involvement in older driver/mobility issues, standardizing CHP senior driver/mobility presentations, conducting subsequent senior summits in future years; and maintaining the momentum of the OCTS Task Force/older driver program.